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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

Letter dated 8 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force.

On 7 October 1996 two Turkish Air Force RF-4 aircraft violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, at 1331 hours, entering the Nicosia flight information region without permission at the Morphou Bay area, flying at an altitude of 29,000 to 35,000 feet. From 1338 to 1352 hours the two aircraft flew from Morphou Bay to the Karpassia areas of Cyprus and then headed in a north-westerly direction towards Turkey.

Such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region are in violation of international air traffic rules and seriously endanger civil aviation flights over Cyprus. Moreover, they heighten tension in Cyprus as clearly acknowledged in the latest Security Council resolution on Cyprus, resolution 1062 (1996) of 28 June 1996.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest against the new violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, which are in complete disregard of the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicos AGATHOCLEOUS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Cyprus
to the United Nations